

SELBY  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1895.

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POPULATION IN 1895 ... .. 5,950

AREA IN ACRES ... .. 34,726

SUB-REGISTRATION DISTRICTS :—					POPULATION.	AREA IN ACRES.
CARLTON	...	...	...	...	2,251	13,293
SELBY-RURAL	...	...	...	...	3,699	21,433

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TO THE SELBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have now to present my Annual Report for 1895. I have endeavoured to prepare it in accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board.

The district now consists of 19 parishes, wholly situated in the West Riding.

The population in 1891 of the undivided district was 6,137, inhabiting 1,406 houses, so that there was nearly an average of 4·4 persons per house. In the beginning of 1895 a part of the parish of Brayton was attached to the Selby Urban District. The area of the Selby Rural district is now 34,726 acres, with an estimated population to the middle of 1895 of 5,950.

Birth and  
Death Rates.

During 1895 166 births were registered within the district, males, 81, females, 85. The birth rate for the year was 27·8 per 1,000.

In the Selby Rural Sub-District the birth rate was 27·3 per 1,000.

„ Carlton	„	„	„	28·8	„
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The birth rates in both sub-districts are below the average of previous years.

In several of the more populous parishes the birth rate was comparatively high.

In Burn the births equalled 38 per 1,000

„ Brayton	„	„	34	„
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„ Cawood	„	„	34	„
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But these are exceptional instances for

In Wistow the birth rate was only 16 per 1,000

„ Carlton	„	„	23	„
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„ Hambleton	„	„	22·4	„
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„ Drax	„	„	27	„
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The deaths of 103 persons, males, 52, females, 51, were registered in 1895 in the Selby Rural Districts, 5 persons removed from rural parishes died at the Workhouse in Selby; the total number is therefore 108. The death rate for the year was 18 per 1,000. Owing to the division of the old rural sanitary district the comparison of death rates in the present area with the previous one would be misleading, so that these comparisons must be confined to the two sub-districts. A death rate of 18 is, however, rather high for these purely agricultural districts.

In the Carlton Sub-Districts the death rate last year was 18·6 per 1,000.

In the Selby Rural Sub-District it was 18 per 1,000.

The average rate for the previous 5 years was 18·7 in the Carlton, and 16·5 in the Selby Rural.

In Brayton Parish the death rate last year was 23 per 1,000

„ Cawood	„	„	„	21	„
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„ Carlton	„	„	„	18·7	„
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„ Hambleton	„	„	„	18·3	„
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The excess in each of these parishes was due to deaths from diseases of the lungs.

Six deaths were certified as having been caused by diseases in the zymotic group, viz.: 4 by diarrhœa, and 2 by whooping cough, another was certified by the coroner as having been caused by whooping cough; one death was reported but not certified as caused by enteric fever, and one in the same manner as having been caused by diarrhœa. Including all these the 9 deaths equalled a death rate of only 1·5 per 1,000.

Seven deaths were caused by phthisis or consumption, equal to 1·2 per 1,000; 6 of these were under 30 years of age. From bronchitis, pneumonia, and other diseases of the lungs there were 13 deaths, equal to a death rate of 2·1 per 1,000, so that all the deaths from what are usually called diseases of respiration equalled 3·3 per 1,000. In addition, last year there was a slight recurrence of influenza, which caused 5 deaths, associated with some form of disease of the lungs; these deaths were nearly all of aged people.

In Cawood the death rate from diseases of the lungs was 6 per 1,000.

In Brayton it was 5·8, while in Carlton and Hambleton it was 4 per 1,000.

Ten inquests were held by the Coroner, the cause of death was returned in 6 as due to some form of accident, the others were believed to have been caused by ordinary disease.

The proportion of deaths of infants under 1 year was equal to 126 per 1,000 registered births; in the Carlton Sub-District it was 128, and in the Selby Rural Sub-District it was 107. One-fourth of all the deaths were among children under 5 years of age, while 40 per cent. were among those aged 65 years and over. In the Selby Rural Sub-District there were 44 per cent. among this class.

During 1895 there were exceptionally few cases of infectious disease in the Selby Rural Districts. 16 cases were notified, and I had no reason to suspect that any additional cases had occurred and had not been reported.

10	were cases of scarlet fever.
4	„ enteric fever.
1	suffered from diphtheria.
1	„ erysipelas.

Cases  
of Infectious  
Disease notified.



The 10 cases of scarlet fever occurred in the two parishes of Carlton and Wistow; these limited outbreaks had no connection with each other. Three of the cases in Carlton were reported in February and March, another in November, only this last was traceable to a known source of infection. The six cases in Wistow were continuous from July to October, and traceable to fresh infection as the earlier patients began to get about. The origin of the first case was, I have no doubt, due to infection caught while picking peas in the fields with strangers from other districts.

The case of diphtheria was evidently one of those which break out of a severe type following upon several others in the same household, who had been only ailing with cold or suspected influenza.

The 4 cases of enteric fever were all single cases in different parishes. One of these had been ill some time before she left her situation to return home. Another had been nursing a supposed case of influenza, and was soon after also taken ill with some similar symptoms. The other 2 were cases such as are repeatedly met with in rural districts; a single individual attacked out of a household all living under the same sanitary conditions, and in no possible way having been exposed to contact with any source of the infection of this fever. But these 2 households had one thing in common, although living probably 12 miles apart the water supply in each was obtained from the river Ouse. One case occurred in January, another in June. For Medical Officers in rural districts anxious to find a reasonable origin for such cases in accordance with the belief that something obtained from a previous case of the same fever must have entered the system of every one attacked with this fever, such cases are most difficult to explain. The river water used, although it receives directly much foecal and other sewage, and indirectly a good deal of the foul back wash of the Aire and Calder rivers, with each tide is yet chemically purer than probably many well waters, but the rivers are liable to more direct infection through sewers discharging into them, and that causes the river water to act as a carrier of disease germs to other districts. With dilution so manifold the chances of infection being swallowed certainly appear, however, very doubtful. It is satisfactory to report that sufficient efforts were made in nursing

the cases to prevent any spread of the disease to others in the several families. A death was said to have been due to enteric fever; it was not certified as such. Another case of illness followed in the same house, but the medical practitioner in attendance was unable to report that case as fever. I visited the house and found sanitary defects bad enough to cause illness of the type of low fever.

Outbreaks of whooping cough frequently occur, but the cases are not in the list to be reported. A great many cases of that disease occurred in Hirst Courtney parish; two young children died, and the attendance at school was very much lessened for several weeks.

In March last this Council appointed a Committee to meet a Committee from the Urban Council of Selby to consider the question of providing some hospital accommodation for infectious cases. I attended the meeting, which instructed the clerks to make inquiries as to the terms upon which other districts have provided joint hospitals.

Disinfectants are always supplied gratuitously to houses where cases of infectious disease occur, and the infected rooms are nearly always stoved with sulphur or the walls limewashed after the recovery of the cases.

The sanitary work of 1895 was more concerned with keeping up the efficient state of those carried out in previous years than in providing any new undertakings. The Rural District Council have new and important duties in the care of the highways, in addition to the sanitary work of the old Rural Sanitary Authority. In some degree the results of both will be helpful towards the improved sanitary condition of the district. In rural districts the road-side ditches are often the only means for the removal of sewage and surface-water from the neighbourhood of houses, as well as for carrying off road-water.

Sanitary Work.

Open Drains and Sewers.

A short length of new sewer was laid at Brayton, which removed a nuisance long complained of. Following upon a special inspection of the existing drains and sewers there over 500 yards of new drains were last year laid by private owners.

New Sewers and Drains.

In Thorpe parish it was found necessary to take up and relay nearly 1000 yards of the main sewer. Additional care was taken to prevent the sewer from being again blocked,



In Cawood and Carlton similar work was carried out for short lengths of the existing sewers. In 11 out of the 19 parishes in the district better house drainage was provided to the extent of 1,472 yards. As part of the same improvements 39 new gullies were supplied for sinks and yards. To prevent any serious nuisance in the disposal of the sewage, and as affording the only means of getting it on to the land, 12 new cesspools were provided, from which the sewage is pumped. As this method is in some districts the best that can be arranged, it would be very desirable that a proper covered tank cart should be provided, say for the use of several villages near each other. It would lessen the nuisance while the sewage was being emptied, and enable it to be better distributed over the land. When the nuisance at emptying is very bad there is a danger of the sewage being left to overflow, and cause more and a continuing annoyance. At Hambleton by repairing the Fox a larger supply of water is now sent down the dyke; this very effectually dilutes and flushes on the sewage which enters the dyke.

The open half pipes at Cawood require more systematic brushing out.

Water Supply. The water supply of the different parishes is always a matter of special inspection. It is obtained by the great majority of the people from private wells which are less than 50 feet in depth. In the parish of Cawood water from the river is preferred, mainly on account of it being softer than either the water of the Bishop's Dyke, or from the few local wells still used. In the hamlet of Newland when the rain water caught in tubs has run short, water is used from the ditches after the river has partly filled them, such water cannot be considered satisfactory.

The sub-soil of at least three-parts of the district is the upper layers of the Bunter sandstone, and water is readily obtained in wells at depths varying from 20 to 40 feet. But the results of the chemical analysis of many well waters shews that they are often polluted to a serious extent by liquids from cesspools, drains, closets, ashpits, and manure heaps which percolate through the same soil, and so readily mix with the shallower well waters. Wells which have long been in use, and trusted to as supplying good water, may not have been examined, while the soil has become less efficient in filtering off the impure



liquids. Year by year the results of analyses shew that this fouling of the waters is taking place ; six samples from four parishes were last year found to be quite unfit to drink, while two samples were but of suspicious quality. These results sometimes appear as not reliable by persons who have long used the water and have not noticed the gradual change in it. But with a sub-soil as I have described, and in a somewhat flat district, the rain must be the chief source for filling up the wells, it carries with it much of the impure matter which is either exposed or stored in tanks or pits in the upper layers of the same strata. Last year two new wells were sunk and lined with iron tubes to over 100 feet in depth, and a satisfactory water obtained. Five old wells were cleansed, but this work is usually very unsatisfactory, for if the ground round about the well contains much impure matter nothing less than cutting that water off can hope to bring about any improvement. In a few cases new cisterns for storing rain water have been provided, rather than attempting to sink a well in a situation where a good water could with difficulty be obtained.

This question of the water supply in rural districts is really considered whenever any sanitary works are carried out, and every new laid sewer and drain and better constructed closet and ashpit are made so as to lessen the risk of any impure matter reaching the drinking water.

Thirty-two new privies and ashpits were provided last year, <sup>Closet</sup> and 15 old ones removed. <sup>Accommodation</sup>

There was, therefore, additional closets provided in 17 cases, and closets and ashpits removed which were unsuitably placed or were causing a nuisance in other ways. Such work helps in preventing disease, and adds to the decency and comfort in which children especially are brought up. The closets at some of the schools should be more frequently cleansed ; formal notices had to be served in 2 cases about these.

Similar notices from the District Council to private owners are sometimes disregarded for too long a time, and tenants suffer a good deal from such filthy nuisances.

The removal of the contents of all closets and ashpits is done by or through the tenants.

Canal Boats,  
&c., &c.

Twelve canal boats were inspected last year. No cause of complaint or any case of infectious disease was found in any of these boats.

The cow-sheds are only small, containing one or two cows, and a few verbal notices to the occupier were all that have been needed to have these places kept in good order.

Two houses were condemned as being unfit to be occupied, one was in a ruinous state with many nuisances about it; the other was a building never intended to be used as a dwelling-house, with no sanitary arrangements provided.

The Rural District Council appointed a committee to consider the question of adopting a set of bye-laws for new buildings, and to prevent nuisances under the Urban powers granted to the old Rural Sanitary Authority. Their report has not yet been received.

On receipt of a circular letter from the West Riding County Council the District Council appointed Mr. Christie, Sanitary Inspector, to obtain samples of milk under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and submit them for analysis, the County Council agreeing to take the responsibility of all future proceedings.

No licences have been applied for under the Petroleum, the Gang Masters and other Acts, under the Local Government Act, 1894, which the District Council are now empowered to carry out.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**J. MITCHELL WILSON, M.D.,**

Dip. Public Health, Cambs.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SELBY, 6th January, 1896.

TABLE I.

TABLE SHEWING PARTICULARS OF NUISANCES ABATED AND SANITARY  
WORK DONE IN THE SELBY RURAL DISTRICT DURING  
YEAR 1895.

Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	236
Number of nuisances found	...	...	...	...	78
Number of notices served	...	...	...	...	31
Number of water notices served	...	...	...	...	7
Old drains lifted and re-laid by Sanitary Authority	...	...	...	...	1306 yds.
New drains laid by private owners	...	...	...	...	1472 „
Old drains lifted and re-laid by private owners	...	...	...	...	81 „
Old drains and water courses cleansed	...	...	...	...	3860 „
New privies and ashpits built	...	...	...	...	32
Privies converted into box closets	...	...	...	...	1
Old privies removed from dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	15
New bored wells...	...	...	...	...	2
Old wells deepened and repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Rain water cisterns in lieu of wells	...	...	...	...	3
New pumps	...	...	...	...	5
Old pumps repaired	...	...	...	...	1
New cesspools	...	...	...	...	12
Old cesspools filled up	...	...	...	...	4
New gullies	...	...	...	...	39
Canal boats inspected	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies and cow-sheds inspected	...	...	...	...	15
Old houses closed	...	...	...	...	1
Old houses demolished	...	...	...	...	5
New urinals	...	...	...	...	5

*The many Cesspools and Gullies in the respective Parishes in this Union have been frequently cleansed during the year. The open Dykes have also been attended to, some of them having been deepened.*

T. CHRISTIE, Inspector.



TABLE II.  
STATISTICS FOR THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF SELBY AND THE SUB-  
REGISTRATION DISTRICTS, 1895.

UNION AND SUB-DISTRICTS.	RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION.				Deaths under 1 to every 1,000 Births Registered.	Percentage of Deaths in Persons aged 65 years and over.
	Births.	Deaths.	From Zymotic Diseases.	From Respiratory Diseases.		
Rural Sanitary District ..	27·8	17·3	1·5	3·3	126	41
Carlton Sub-District .. ..	28·8	18·2	1·4	3·5	107	35
Selby Sub-District .. ..	27·2	17·0	0·8	3·2	130	45

TABLE III.  
BIRTH AND DEATH RATES IN THE LARGEST PARISHES, DURING 1895.

PARISHES.	POPULATION	RATE PER 1000 OF THE AVERAGE POPULATION.				Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births.
		Births.	Deaths.	Zymotic Diseases.	Respiratory Diseases.	
Brayton .. .. .	340	35·6	23·5	·0	5·8	25
Carlton.. .. .	759	23·7	19·7	·0	4·0	111
Cawood .. .. .	1000	34·0	21	3·0	6·0	88
Hambleton .. .. .	489	22·4	18·3	·0	4·0	272
Wistow.. .. .	674	32·6	13·3	·0	2·9	272

TABLE A.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1895 in the Rural Sanitary District of Selby, classified according to Diseases and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	Mortality from all causes.							Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of Children under Five years of age.																			
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.																				
Carlton Sub-District ..	40	7	6	0	4	9	14	Under 5 upwards	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases	Total.
Selby Sub-District ..	63	13	2	1	3	17	27	Under 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	4	1	..	3	13	15
Totals .. ..	103	20	8	1	7	26	41	Under 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	..	7	5	4	1	17	28
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto	5	1	..	..	..	1	3	Under 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4



TABLE B.

TABLE of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medial Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Rural Sanitary District of Selby; classified according to Diseases and Localities.

NAME OF LOCALITIES.	Population at all ages, Census, 1891.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.											
				Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVER.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	
								Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.			
Carlton Sub-District	2261	65	Under 5 5 upwards.	... ...	2 2	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...
Selby Sub-District	3689	101	Under 5 5 upwards.	... ...	1 5	... 1	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 1
Totals	5950	166	Under 5 5 upwards.	... ...	3 7	1	... ...	... ...	... ...	4	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1

Notification of Infectious Disease is compulsory in the district since 1st December, 1889.  
There is no Isolation Hospital in or used by the Sick of the district.

